

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes some points including research background, research problem, research objective, scope and limitation, research significance, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Research Background

Essay writing is a part of learning a language using complicated writing rules. As argued by Hourani (2008), essay writing is basically an extended activity of writing and therefore it becomes more demanding than in the case of writing a short paragraph. There are some aspects that should be noticed in writing an essay such as choosing the best topic, the use of word choices, and the use of grammatical rules. In addition to those aspects, one of important part in essay writing is also punctuation.

Punctuation has many functions in the form of writing. One of the advantages of punctuation is to give a clue to the readers where to pause, to stop, to emphasize, even to use expression while reading particularly an essay which are important for understanding (Sudilah, 2015). Brewton et.al (1962, as cited in Sudilah, 2015) indicate that the use of punctuation also serves as to show the readers how sentences and part of sentences are related. Moreover, using punctuation correctly in the essay will allow the reader to get the point of the text easily and can decrease misunderstanding.

Error analysis is an essential source of information to a teacher. It provides information on students' errors which in turn helps teachers to correct students' errors and also improves the effectiveness of their teaching (Hourani, 2008). Corder (1967, as cited in Nzama, 2010) argues that errors are visible proof that learning is taking place. Through errors made by the students, the teacher is able to observe whether the materials given is understood well or not.

In addition, there have been many types of research done in UMM related to error analysis. As reported in Digital Library, most of the researchers discussed errors in grammatical, subject-verb agreement, pronunciation, collocation, morphological and syntactic, google translate, passive voice, and spelling. After analyzing the result, Ambarawati (2016) finds four types of grammatical errors in paraphrasing made by the students of their writing. There were omission (238 errors), addition (118 errors), misinformation (127 errors), and misordering (22 errors). On the other hand, Ramdani (2015) concluded two types of errors in subject verb-agreement, which were basic of subject-verb agreement (29 errors) and subject-verb agreement: using there + be (5 errors).

There is only a few of thesis discussed errors in essay writing specifically in punctuation. From 2013 up to 2017, there are four types of research discussing errors in essay writing. One of them is errors in using sentence connectors in writing an essay and most of them are specified to analyze kinds of essay writing such as argumentative and descriptive essay, but none of them is specified to punctuation errors. However, this research has to be conducted to respond to the

limited number of research in error analysis particularly essay writing in Digital library in University of Muhammadiyah Malang.

1.2 Research Problems

Based on the elaboration of research background, there are several specific research problems addressed by this study are as follows:

1. What are types of punctuation error made by the fifth-semester students of English Language and Education Department at University of Muhammadiyah Malang in writing an essay?
2. What are the common punctuation errors made by the fifth-semester students of English Language and Education Department at University of Muhammadiyah Malang in writing an essay?

1.3 Research Objectives

Based on the problems previously mentioned, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To identify the types of punctuation error made by the fifth-semester students of English Departement at University of Muhammadiyah Malang in writing an essay.
2. To discover the common punctuation errors made by the fifth-semester students of English Department at University of Muhammadiyah Malang in writing an essay.

1.4 Scope and Limitation

To avoid the research become broader, the scope of this study focused on the error analysis in essay writing at university level. The problem is restricted on analyzing the students' punctuation errors that mostly used in essays, namely period, comma, brackets, question mark, quotation marks, exclamation marks, and apostrophe. The limitation made by the writer here is also to give a clear description of discussion in this study.

1.5 Research Significance

By doing this research, the writer expects that results of the study can provide valuable information for both students and lecturers.

1. Students

The errors made will help them to be aware of the errors that they make and the cause of the mistakes. It is also expected that they will find correct construction in placing punctuation marks correctly especially in essay writing.

2. Teacher

The findings of this study are expected to raise the awareness of punctuation to highlight some punctuation problems found in students' writing. Thus, the teacher can set teaching priority on what kind of punctuation students less understand. The recommendation might support teachers to teach punctuation appropriately.

1.6 Definition of Key Term

To avoid misunderstanding, the definition of key terms are needed to be given as follows:

1. Error Analysis

According to Gass et.al (2008), error analysis is a type of linguistic analysis that focuses on the errors made by learners. In error analysis point of view, there is a distinction between error and mistake.

a. Error

Gass et.al (2008) state that an error is a noticeable deviation from the adult grammar of native speaker that reflects the competence of the learner.

b. Mistake

A mistake refers to a performance error that is either a random guess or a “slip”, in that it is a failure to utilize a known system correctly (Gass et.al, 2008).

2. Essay Writing

Essay writing is defined as a group of paragraphs that develops one central idea. Introduction, developmental paragraphs, and conclusion are involved in the organization of essay writing.

3. Punctuation Marks

Punctuation is a system of symbols and graphic features used to protect the integrity of the sentence in the English writing system and make it visible (Krahn, 2014).